

Youth Group

Youth St John's Parish Riverstone Youth Group  Thank you to the Eroles family, YFC and parent helpers for Youth Group which was held on Friday night. The youth group had a great night! All school-aged children are invited to attend the next Youth Group at our Parish! They are most welcome to bring a friend! ***Friday - 18th September at 6:30pm***

Collection Plates

The First Church Collections plus donations from Marriages, Baptisms and Funerals goes directly towards supporting the various ministries of the Diocese of Parramatta, including the priest salary funds.

The Second Church Collection goes directly into our Parish Account. This account is used for administrative expenses, repairs & maintenance, insurance, church supplies, wages, sacrament supplies, SRE resources, telephone and electricity. *Thank you for supporting our parish & the Catholic Church.*

Foreign Coins - Please respect the request of no foreign coins to be placed on the collection plates. Our Parish cannot bank these coins, nor can we take them to a currency converter as they do not accept

RCIA - RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Thinking of becoming a Catholic? Are you or someone you know interested in exploring the Catholic faith? This RCIA is a warm, welcoming journey for:

- *Unbaptised individuals wanting to join the Catholic Church
- *Baptised Christians from other traditions wishing to enter into full communion
- *Baptised Catholics needing to complete their Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist

At this session, there is no pressure or obligation—just a safe space to ask questions and grow in faith.

When: **Sunday 20th September** immediately following the conclusion of the 9am Mass. The session runs for 1 hour.

Meet: at St John the Evangelist Church, Riverstone and proceed to the **Galilee Room** (in the old classrooms)

Volunteer Ministry Roster August 2026

Date	Welcomers	Mass Co-ordinators	Acolytes	Special Ministers	Readers	Prayer of the Faithful	Children's Liturgy	Choir/Power Point	Cleaners
Sat 22 nd 6pm Week 4	L Canlas A Canlas		J Missio		S Bonnici C Dony	M Sultana	None	Blessed Music Ministry	Team Wed
Sun 23 rd 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		M Evans	P Perera	None	Power point	
Sun 23 rd 9am	S Brown	R Brown	R Cannalire		E Abendan J Boemi	A Samuel	None	Rondalla Choir	
Sun 23 rd 11am	A Hoare	H Greedy	D Catig		S Nebleza N D'Souza	D Gorkic	None	Raymond & Co	
Sat 29 th 6pm Week 5	L Canlas A Canlas	Sultana Family	J Misso		L Canlas P Canlas		L Canlas	Jenchris & Co	
Sun 30 th 7am	Volunteer	R Bigeni	R Bigeni		Volunteer Volunteer	P Perera	None	Power point	Team Wed
Sun 30 th 9am	A Hoare	R Brown	J Teuma or R Cannalire		C Sherry Volunteer	Volunteer	V Sultana S Suri	Nonoy & Tina	
Sun 30 th 10:30am	A Hoare	H Greedy	D Catig		D Gorkic S Suri	Volunteer	S Corben J Bugeja		

Thank you to all of our parishioners who have committed to their Ministry.

Parish Funds

Your support, as always, is much appreciated. For those wanting to make payments directly to our bank account, these are the details:

Account Name: St John's Catholic Church Riverstone
BSB: 067950
Account No: 00000172
Message: (First & Surname of Parishioner)

Please write your full name & the word donation in the message section when using internet banking) OR

Weekly Envelopes *OR*

Tap & Go *OR*

Credit Card Donations *OR*

Collection Plates at Mass

QR Code for payments directly to the Riverstone Parish - please enter your name & description.

Seeking your help on our Feast Day

St John the Evangelist Feast Day Celebration 10:30am
Mass Sunday 29th November 2026 with The Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Cony DD followed by the feast day celebration at the Parish Centre.

Assistance by individuals or families will be needed on this day. Please leave your details in the church foyer on the clipboard. Roles include BBQ, Set up chairs,

Piety Store

***For Sale at the Piety Store: God's Word 2026** \$24 each.

Piety Store - Opening Hours

Sundays 10am - 12pm Tuesdays 10am - 11am

Unfortunately, piety items are not available for purchase from the parish office.

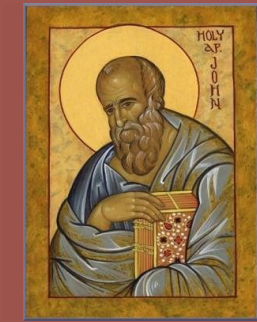
Friday Prayer Group

Christ Catholic Community (CCC) Prayer Group

Fridays 10am

Please contact Mary Camilleri Ph 0403116987 if you would like any further information.

Counters: A Hoare, J Shipley & V Sultana



St John The Evangelist Catholic Church Riverstone

A spiritual home for the community offering hope and help for all in need



Parish Priest: Fr Zakaria Gayed
Deacon: Rev. Dr. Michael Tan
Parish Secretary: Melissa Spence
Parish Office: Mon –Fri
Hours: 9am - 12pm and 12:30pm - 2:30pm
Phone: 9627-1176
Email: stjohs10@bigpond.com
Website: www.stjohnsriverstone.org.au
Address: 164 Garfield Rd East,
Riverstone NSW 2765

St Johns Primary School: 9854-3200
Principal: Mrs Jane Misek
Weekend Mass Times
Saturday Vigil 6pm
Sunday Morning 7am, 9am & 10:30am
Weekday & Morning Mass Times
Monday *Communion Service* 8:30am
Tuesday-Saturday 8:30am
First Friday 8:30am & 7:30pm

Anointing Mass
First Saturday of each month at 8:30am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for Vocations
Tuesday after 8:30am Mass

Novena to Mother of Perpetual Help
Wednesday after 8:30am Mass

Mass, Benediction & Rosary
Friday 8:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession
Saturday 4:30pm - 5:30pm
Prayer Group
Friday 10am

Marriage
Please give 6 months notice
Baptism -
2nd & 4th Sunday of the month at 12pm
Baptism Information Night
First Tuesday of each month at 7pm
Marriage & Baptism
By arrangement during office hours

23 August 2026
Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
First Reading** **Isaiah 22:19-23
A reading from the prophet Isaiah
I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.
Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:
I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8
Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple.
Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.

I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul.

*Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.*

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands.

*Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.*

Second Reading *Romans 11:33-36*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

From him, through him, and in him are all things.
How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *Matthew 16:18*

Alleluia, alleluia!
You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 16:13-20*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, ‘Who do people say the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ ‘But you,’ he said ‘who do you say I am?’ Then Simon Peter spoke up, ‘You are the Christ,’ he said, ‘the Son of the living God.’ Jesus replied, ‘Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.’ Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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Kind Reminder: The First Holy Communion Celebration will be during the 22nd August 6pm Vigil, and the 23rd August at 9am & 11am Masses.
Note: There will be NO Children’s Liturgy during these three Masses, due to the celebration of the First Eucharist.

Fr Zakaria, Parish Priest — Holiday
Fr Zakaria will be taking a short holiday following the **8:30am Mass on Friday, 28 August**, and will return to celebrate the **8:30am Mass on Tuesday, 1 September**. We assure Fr Zakaria of our prayers and wish him a safe, peaceful and restful break. May the Lord bless him, renew his strength, and keep him safely in His care throughout his time away.
We look forward to welcoming him back to our parish community and celebrating Mass with him once again.

Eucharist 2028—Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the gift of your real presence in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

Grant us the grace to receive you reverently, worship you truly and serve you with hearts renewed.

By the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen us, so that as you gave yourself to the Father and to us, we too may offer our lives to God and to others.

Inspire and help us to serve you in those who are in need, especially the defenceless and homeless, the lonely and lost. Unite us with your sacrifice of the Mass, so that we may truly become what we have received, the Body of Christ. Amen.

Masses & Feasts

Mon	24 Aug	St Bartholomew
	24 Aug	8:30am Communion Service
Thurs	27 Aug	St Monica
Fri	28 Aug	St Augustine
Sat	29 Aug	The Passion of St John the Baptist
Fri	04 Sept	7:30pm First Friday Mass
Sat	05 Sept	8:30am Anointing Mass

Prayer to St John the Evangelist

Oh God, who through the blessed Apostle John have unlocked for us the secrets of your Word, grant, we pray, that we may grasp with proper understanding what he has so marvellously brought to our ears. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



Parish Notices

St John’s Father’s Day Raffle - tickets are now on sale during the weekend Masses. Great Prizes! Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. All proceeds will go directly to our Riverstone Parish.

 **Pancake Fundraiser for St John’s, Riverstone** - **Today is our Pancake Fundraiser after the 7am, 9am and 11am Masses.**
Pancakes with ice cream and maple syrup will be \$5. The EFTPOS machine is available for your purchases.

The **Catholic Medical Association** is hosting a GP Mini-Expo on 12th September at the Bede Heather Centre at Blacktown. Deacon Michael will be on the panel. This Expo would suit parishioners or students interested in learning how to identify a good Catholic GP.

Liturgy and Volunteer Meeting for Feast Day
Saturday 19th September at 10am in the hall.
Could all liturgical, including choirs attend this meeting to discuss the 10:30am Mass for our Feast Day on the 29th November. We would also like to invite any parishioners, who are willing to help on the day.
*****Helpers are required for food, setting/packing up chairs and tables, BBQ, decorations etc. Please place your name on the clipboard in the church foyer*****

120 Year Celebration - The front of the cross has enough space for 25 more plaques. We encourage parishioners to fill out a form as our Parish will place another order later in the year.

Gluten free hosts are available for those who wish to receive Holy Communion. Please arrange with the Priest before Mass.

My Life in Christ -Adult Faith Formation Program

Come and join our parish’s **adult faith formation** program! It’s free and will be held fortnightly. The program continues on **Saturday, 5th September at 10am** in the church hall. The topic for this session is *Knowledge of Self & How it can lead us to know God even better.* Everyone welcome!

Return & Earn

 **St John’s Parish Return & Earn - every 2nd Sunday of the month.**
Please drop off your bag under the carport in the Parish Centre. Our Parish Council members will then Return and Earn with all monies going directly to the Riverstone Parish.
Next Collection Day - Sunday 13th September 2026
If you bring any glass bottles, please pack separately in a cardboard box - 6 per box.

Appeals

The **Bishop’s Father’s Day Appeal** for the Clergy Support Foundation will run across four weekends, from 29–30 August to 19–20 September 2026.
Our Parish will have a Third Collection on the 5th and 6th of September. Envelopes will be available on all weekends. Please support our Clergy. This Appeal is part of the Catholic Foundation Appeals and we will need to reach our quota of approx. \$3,500.

Prayers for our Community

 **Deceased Mass Offerings** -
All Souls, All Souls in Purgatory (2), Forgotten Souls in Purgatory, John & Rosy Attard, Philip Azzopardi, Br Joe Byrne, Anthony Buttigieg, Sam Bugeja, Alex Calleja, John Cannata, John Grima, Alan Hoare, Matthew Faumui, Maureen Muccillo, Joseph Sant, Zeno Sartori, Peter Shipley, Joseph Sultana, Chris, John, Maryann Sultana & Sultana family, John, Michael, Angelo Clementina & Leanne Sultana & Sultana family, Maria & Nicholas Gatt, John (Jim) Galea, Joseph Jack Sultana, Michael Agius, Fr Eugene Stockton, Mary Muinde Tithe, Cresendcia Cardoza, Bellarmine Helen Batih, Nunziato Orlando & family, Silvana & Domenico Procopio, Maria Procopio & Circosta family, Ralf Sullivan, Harriot Perera, Verafin C Ilao, Gregorio, Michael Perera and Raymond Baker.

For those who are sick:
Especially Adrian Bugeja, Carlos & Frances Saliba, Maria Pisto, Tony & Freda Attard, Margaret Galea, Belinda Grgic, Dominic & Angela Schembri, John & Janice Padernia, Kerry Duffy, Theresa Bye, Antonietta Arbolino, Rita & Domink & family, Natalie Love, Maureena Drury, Elisabeth Juliawah Santoso, Matthew Hope, Clare, Margaret Attard, Carol Petro and those in our parish community.

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Safeguarding

Safeguarding training is available face-to-face and online through the Diocesan Safeguarding Learning
Website: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au/>

Parish Centre

Work for the interior furnishings for the Parish Centre continues.

Sacraments

Sacramental Program - Today, we celebrate the Sacrament of First Eucharist. We ask you to keep these children and their families in your prayers as they receive their First Holy Communion. May this special day be filled with faith, joy and God’s blessing, and may the Eucharist strengthen them throughout their lives. Congratulations to the children and their parents. We would like to thank the parents and the Sacramental Team for preparing and assisting the children throughout this program.

Sacramental Coordinator Rosanna Ph: 0428766727
or email: sacraments10@outlook.com.au
Baptism Classes -
The next Baptism Class:
Tuesday 1st September 2026 at 7pm in the Church Hall.